

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 17317 291906Z

ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-03

OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 USIA-06 AGRE-00 AID-05

CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02

SIL-01 STR-05 TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15 ARA-10 AF-10

NEA-10 /130 W

-----001502 292143Z /41

R 291859Z NOV 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3397

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION GENEVA

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USEEC

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, UNCTAD, EEC

SUBJECT: UNCTAD DEBT EXPERTS MEETING

REF: (A) BRUSSELS 17174, (B) STATE 272837 (NOTAL)

1. MISSION OFFICER EXPLAINED US VIEWS REGARDING THE SUBJECT MEETING IN ACCORDANCE INSTRUCTIONS (REF B) TO COMMISSION OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR LDC DEBTS (BUCHBINDER AND PIERINI) IN THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR DEVELOPMENT NOVEMBER 29, AND LEFT A SHORT "NON-PAPER" IN ORDER TO AVOID MISUNDERSTANDING.

2. BUCHBINDER REFERRED TO THE DECISION AT THE NOVEMBER 25 EC COORDINATING MEETING FOR THE DEBT EXPERTS MEETING TO ASK BELGIUM--THE PRESIDENCY COUNTRY--TO SOUND OUT THE USG ON THE SUBJECT IN BRUSSELS AND IN WASHINGTON.

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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 17317 291906Z

HE ESSENTIALLY REPEATED THE POINTS IN PARAS 2 AND 3, REF A.

3. WHEN ASKED HOW THE EC FELT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO INTRODUCE THE US/EC PAPER ON DEBT RELIEF INTO THE EXPERTS MEETING WITHOUT RISKING AN INVOLVED DISCUSSION VERGING ON NEGOTIATIONS, BUCHBINDER STATED THAT IT HAD

BEEN AGREED AT THE OECD IN NOVEMBER THAT THE US/EC PAPER WOULD BE ANNEXED TO THE DAC SECRETARIAT FACTUAL STUDY OF THE LDC DEBT SITUATION (PARA 3, REF A).

4. WHILE THE EC EXPECTED THAT MOST OF THE MEETING WOULD BE CONCERNED WITH ANALYSIS OF LDC DEBT SITUATION, SOME TIME WOULD HAVE TO BE DEVOTED (POSSIBLY AT G-77 INSISTENCE) TO A REVIEW OF THE POSSIBLE MEANS OF ALLEVIATING DEBT PROBLEMS. THE GROUP-B AT THIS POINT COULD REFER TO THE US/EC PROPOSAL AS AN ILLUSTRATION OF ONE APPROACH TO THIS PROBLEM AND INSIST IT BE INCLUDED AS AN ANNEX TO THE REPORT OF THE EXPERTS MEETING AS SUGGESTED PARA 2, REF A. BUCHBINDER ECHOED THE VIEW OF THE BELGIAN PRESIDENCY TO THE EFFECT THAT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO ENTER OUR PAPER INTO THE RECORD IN UNCTAD AS AN ILLUSTRATIVE APPROACH (NOT A NEGOTIATING PROPOSAL) IN ORDER TO COUNTER THE FREQUENT G-77 CHARGE THAT THE GROUP-B "NEVER HAS ANYTHING TO OFFER".

5. BUCHBINDER SAID THAT THE EC AGREED WITH THE US POSITION AS PRESENTED BY THE MISSION OFFICER WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT "REVIEW" OF THE LDC DEBT PROBLEM ALSO INCLUDES REVIEW OF THE POSSIBLE APPROACHES TO ALLEVIATE IT. HE FELT THIS IS UNAVOIDABLE IN VIEW OF THE MANDATE FOR THE TDB MINISTERIAL WHICH HE SAID CALLS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BRUSSE 17317 291906Z

FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE POSSIBLE MEANS TO RESOLVE THE DEBT PROBLEM.

6. BUCHBINDER HOPED THE EC COULD RECEIVE THE US REACTION TO THE PROPOSAL CONVEYED REF A IN TIME TO PERMIT THE COMMISSION TO PREPARE ITS BRIEFING AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE COORDINATION MEETING OF THE MEMBER STATES WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE IN GENEVA THE MORNING OF MONDAY, DECEMBER 5. HE ADDED THAT IN ANY EVENT THE EC WOULD TAKE NO ACTION AT THE EXPERTS MEETING WITHOUT FIRST COORDINATING WITH THE US.

7. COMMENT: THE MISSION SUPPORTS THE ACTIONS RECOMMENDED PARA 5, REF A. THIS IS AN ISSUE ON WHICH THERE APPEARS TO BE COMPLETE EC AGREEMENT AND WHERE AN APPROACH TO THE COMMISSION AND THE EC COUNCIL IN BRUSSELS SHOULD BE EFFECTIVE. MORRIS

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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